**Indo-E.C. Talks**

3180. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have any talks with the European Commission (E.C.);

(b) whether E.C. has also expressed its keenness for having a dialogue with the Government; and

(c) if so, the subjects listed for inclusion in the agenda for Indo-EC talks

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The India-EC Talks are scheduled to be held in Brussels on 16th and 17th Dec., 96 on the occasion of the next meeting of the India-EC Working Group of Trade and Economic Cooperation. Matters of bilateral trade, commercial and economic interest are to be discussed in the meeting.

*[Translation]*

**Closure of Industries in U.P.**

3181. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to close down the big industrial units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of industries proposed to be closed down by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the persons rendered unemployed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) BIFR have recommended for winding up of the Tannery and Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd. and have referred the matter to High Court, Allahabad.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Cotton Advisory Board**

3182. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from the cotton producing States for releasing further cotton quota for export in order to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers;

(b) whether meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board was held in November, 1996 to review the supply and demand position; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Requests for release of quota for export of cotton are received from the States from time to time.

Government have already released a quota of 6.15 lakh bales for export, in the 1996-97 Cotton Year. Quota released are made after taking into account all relevant factors, including assessments of cotton production, domestic demand and availability of surplus cotton.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**KVIC**

3183. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more assistance to units of Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala;

(b) whether the KVIC propose to set up more projects in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). More assistance will be given to Kerala and other States/U.Ts. depending on the merits of the projects. This is a continuous process.

**FERA Violations by Cigarette Companies**

3184. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cigarette companies in the country who are allegedly indulging in the evasion of Excise duty, Customs duty and Income-tax etc, besides FERA violations;

(b) the action taken to expedite investigations in respect of these cigarette companies;

(c) whether these investigations have been followed with issuance of show cause notices and other follow up action; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Closure of Textile Mills**

3185. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills lying closed as on date State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to take over the management of the closed textile mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.10.96, no Cootton/Man-made Fibre Mill was closed under the I.D. Act. 146 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mill were otherwise closed due to lock outs, strikes and financial difficulties, etc. and 38 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mills were under liquidation. State-wise figures of number of mills closed are given below :

| | |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 10 |
| Assam | 1 |
| Bihar | 2 |
| Gujarat | 57 |
| Haryana | 5 |
| Karnataka | 10 |
| Kerala | 2 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 9 |
| Maharasthra | 19 |
| Orissa | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 6 |
| Tamilnadu | 40 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 14 |
| West Bengal | 6 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Daman and Diu | 1 |
| Total | 184 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Cheating of Bank by Imposter**

3186. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem "Firm cheated of Rs.20 lakh by imposter" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 29, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the imposter deposited a sum of Rs.30 lakh in a fake bank account and withdrew Rs.20 lakh therefrom;

(c) if so, the modus operandi adopted therein; and

(d) the action taken against the delinquent employees of the bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur have reported that one Shri Sandeep Dabas, engaged as Company Secretary by M/s. SKN Industries Limited having current account with a New Delhi branch of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur had approached the branch with request letters seeking issuance of bankers' cheques of Rs.10 lakhs each favouring three different parties. The bank issued three bankers cheques by debiting the account of M/s. SKN Industries Limited out of which one bankers' cheque was subsequently cancelled and the amount has been credited to the account of M/s SKN Industries Limited. The fraud came to light when the Managing Director of the Company alleged that the request letters presented by Shri Sandeep Dabas were forged. It was also alleged that Shri Dabas had opened Fraudulent accounts at South Extension branch of Canara Bank in the name of M/s. Iram Group International Private Limited by presenting forged documents and current account in the name of M/s. Marketing Syndicate at State Bank of India, Nazafgarh under proprietorship of Shri Sandeep Dabas himself from where the amounts credited through the two bankers' cheques were siphoned off.

It has been reported that an FIR has been lodged with local police and the banks has initiated action to ascertain staff lapses.

**Participation of SSIs in Trade Fair**

3187. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has organised a trade fair in Delhi recently to promote the business of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the smooth growth of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). The theme of the India International Trade Fair 1996 was Small Scale Industries. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) had put up display of the products manufactured in Small Scale Sector and the related technologies. The products covered in the display were agro and food processing item, appliances and consumer durables, automotive components, bicycle and bicycle parts, electronics, Gems and jewellery, leather, readymade garments and sports goods etc. 504 companies of Small Scale sector participated in the fair.

(c) The Govt. have provided various facilities in the from of incentives for growth of Small Scale Sector. These are :- excise concessions, priorly credit by banks, facility of term loan under the refinance schemes of SIDBI through scheduled banks and financial institutions, working capital loans upto Rs.2.00 lakhs at concessional rate of interest, reservation of 836 items for exclusive manufacture in SSI Sector, technical and information support services, technology improvement support, marketing and higher purchase facilities by NSIC, single point registration schemes for SSI Sector by NSIC, price and purchase preference in Govt. purchase programmes, infrastructural support for development of training capacities, financial support to acquire ISO-9000 certification, National Equity Funds